

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

**PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER,  
ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by John Erickson
3. **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Balbone, Berger, Laflen, Norton, Sol, Waack, Williams

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others present:** Lieutenant Bill Moulder, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Sergeant Jon Klaus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Battalion Chief Brian Kane, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Shea Gibson, Block by Block; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director; Janet Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager

4. **ADJOURNMENT REQUESTS**

Commissioner Sol requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the 13 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January meeting.

Commissioner Williams requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Jeanne Dobrin.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the February 10, 2020 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Williams and approved.

**POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the February 10, 2020 Public Safety Commission meeting was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, and the West Hollywood Library.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sol to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and approved.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Erickson, resident of West Hollywood, spoke regarding the upcoming Vagina Monologues.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding the Public Safety Awards and said that she is working with Captain Ramirez to name an award in honor of Detective Amber Leist.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding the Public Safety Awards and offered to serve on the sub-committee to assist staff.

Staff reminded all that the Public Safety Awards will be held on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the spring Senior Health Fair. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding work with the West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition and an issue with vehicles regularly blocking bike lanes.

Commissioner Williams gave an update on Census efforts and encouraged anyone interested in being a Census Ambassador to contact Hernan Molina at City Hall.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9A. CODE COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Commissioners received a presentation from Danny Rivas, Code Compliance Manager, regarding code compliance statistics and programs, the upcoming replacement of the case management system, and an upcoming online survey.

Commissioner Berger asked how many code enforcement officers the City has and asked how long it generally takes to handle a case.

Mr. Rivas outlined the current staffing for the Code Compliance Division and spoke regarding investigations, case management, and citations.

Commissioner Berger asked what the most frequent complaints are.

Mr. Rivas said that noise, property maintenance issues, and short-term rentals are common.

Commissioner Berger asked if the Public Safety Commission can assist with publicizing the upcoming survey.

Mr. Rivas spoke regarding working with the City's Communications Department and the community to advertise the upcoming survey.

Commissioner Berger asked what the typical response time is.

Mr. Rivas said that the expectation is to make contact within 24 hours with the reporting party.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information regarding extended hours permits and asked if Code works with the Alcohol and Tobacco Liaison Deputy. Commissioner Berger thanked Mr. Rivas for his good work.

Mr. Rivas said that the extended hours permits are related to construction.

Commissioner Norton asked for more information regarding code compliance deployment and schedules. Commissioner Norton spoke regarding entertainment related issues and asked how officers respond.

Mr. Rivas spoke regarding deployment, geographical areas, and schedules, including handling evening complaints.

Commissioner Williams asked for more information regarding curbside maintenance and spoke regarding public safety issues caused by poor maintenance. Commissioner Williams spoke regarding buildings not being into compliance with ADA regulations. Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Rivas for his improvements.

Commissioner Balbone thanked Mr. Rivas for the report and asked if trends could be seen and hoped that future reports would highlight trends once more data is collected. Commissioner Balbone thanked Mr. Rivas and his team for their quick response.

West Seegmiller, Director of Sex Workers Project Los Angeles, spoke regarding an issue that occurred at Prince Men's Spa that appeared excessive enforcement.

Anne Goldman, resident of West Hollywood, thanked Mr. Rivas for the extended hours and the great customer service from the code compliance

officers and asked for clarification on secondhand smoke and noise enforcement.

Commissioner Laflen reminded all that residents can always call the Sheriff's Department with noise issues.

Commissioner Sol thanked Mr. Rivas for the report and asked for more information on the fiscal impact of the new programs.

Mr. Rivas spoke regarding the items that were funded in the current fiscal year.

#### **9B. REPORT FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Brian Kane reviewed the Fire Department statistics for January 2020, including suppression, rescue, and fire prevention activities.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the Barrington Plaza fire in the City of Los Angeles and asked how the County Fire Department handles similar buildings in the City of West Hollywood.

Chief Kane said that the City of Los Angeles Fire Department is still investigating the fire at Barrington Plaza, and that it did not appear to be arson.

Commissioner Waack asked if there are buildings in the City of West Hollywood that do not have sprinklers.

Chief Kane said that there are buildings in the City of West Hollywood that are not required to have sprinklers due to the code at the time they were built.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the recent Rent Stabilization mailing which included information regarding proactive code compliance inspections.

Commissioner Williams thanked Rent Stabilization staff for reminding all about smoke detectors in its newsletter.

Commissioner Waack expressed concern with buildings without sprinklers and asked for more information regarding changing the code.

Staff will follow-up with the building and safety manager regarding the various codes that govern these buildings.

Commissioner Balbone suggested other alternatives be put in place when sprinklers are not an option.

Chief Kane spoke regarding the benefit of standpipes and how they work to suppress fires when sprinklers are not present.

**9C. REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

Lieutenant Moulder said that crime in January was down as compared to the previous year. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the recent Academy Awards parties and the upcoming Los Angeles Marathon. Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the upcoming West Hollywood Sheriff's Station Golf Tournament.

Commissioner Norton asked for additional information regarding the recent Homeless Count.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the success of the Homeless Count.

Commissioner Williams thanked Lieutenant Moulder for the decoy car and said how appreciative the neighbors are.

Commissioner Sol spoke regarding DUI statistics and asked when the next DUI checkpoint will be.

Lieutenant Moulder said that the most recent DUI checkpoint was Friday.

Commissioner Sol spoke in support of more DUI checkpoints in West Hollywood.

Commissioner Berger asked what led to the decrease in vehicle burglaries.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the varying deployment and resources given by the City which gave a strong Sheriff presence in the neighborhood and is helping to deter vehicle burglaries.

Commissioner Berger asked for additional information regarding a shooting in the City of Los Angeles.

Lieutenant Moulder gave information on how the Sheriff's Department assisted LAPD with an incident that originated on Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Berger spoke regarding anti-Semitic graffiti and calls for service at the Cannabis Lounge. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding upcoming events, including a Community Active Shooter class on February 13<sup>th</sup> and Coffee with the COPPS. Commissioner Berger spoke regarding the "Ask the Captain" feature on the West Hollywood Station's website.

West Seegmiller, Director of Sex Workers Project Los Angeles, spoke regarding a concern from a resident regarding an inappropriate interaction with a Sheriff's Deputy and spoke in support of sensitivity training.

Lieutenant Moulder said that he would follow-up on the concern and spoke in support of sensitivity training.

Commissioner Williams spoke regarding sensitivity training for Deputies.

Lieutenant Moulder spoke regarding the Sheriff's Department's Active Shooter Training Video which is available online.

Sergeant Klaus reviewed the Sheriff's Department's statistics for January 2020, including crimes, response times, and calls for service.

**9D. REPORT FROM BLOCK BY BLOCK SECURITY AMBASSADORS – MONTHLY REPORT**

Mr. Gibson reviewed the monthly reports from January 2020, including pedestrian assistance, crosswalk assistance, homeless issues, and park patrols.

Commissioner Berger asked for more information regarding the increase in the restroom counts.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10A. COMMISSION APPOINTMENT TO THE CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) WORKING GROUP**

Commissioners agreed to appoint Commissioner Lafien as the primary representative and Commissioner Williams as the alternate representative to the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Working Group.

**11. ITEMS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

None.

**12. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Staff encouraged anyone interested in assisting with the Public Safety Awards to contact staff.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**14. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sol asked for an update on the bollard installation project slated for the busy sidewalks in West Hollywood.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Safety Commission adjourned at 7:49 PM in memory of the 13 law enforcement officers and firefighters who have passed away since the January meeting and Jeanne Dobrin. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Plummer Park – Rooms 5/6 at 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, CA 90046



Public Safety Commission Chair



Staff Liaison

**A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.**

***(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)***